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■ INSIDE

BRIDGING THE PAST

A new O'Reilly's Bridge crosses the Welland River linking Pelham and Wainfleet. Niagara Region has placed monument marking the site of the five bridges that have crossed the river at the site.

See Page 3 for a photo review of the project.

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■ CHARITY: Volunteers needed

Pelham sorting food in old Welland Canadian Tire

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

WELLAND - It's in the spirit of sharing.

The Salvation Army has invited the Pelham Community Food Drive and Pelham Cares to use its extra space. The groups need it to sort food collected during the Saturday food drive.

"We have plenty of space," said Greg Woods Wednesday pointing out a vast area in the former Canadian Tire store on Niagara St. in Welland.

"This is a good example of charities in the region working together," said Woods, who coordinates Christmas programs for the Salvation Army, Hope Centre and Open Arms Mission.

Jane Gilmour, food coordinator for Pelham Cares, said during the past couple of years Pelham Cares has used the former Donut Diner on Regional Rd. 20 to sort and pack cans, boxes and packages from the one-day food drive.

"Now that we have our food bank, administration office and sorting area in there we realized we have no room to sort the food drive items," she said.

The Salvation Army offered the space and a truck to haul food to and from the old store, she said.

For the 19th year, the Pelham Community Food Drive will go door-to-door in the urban area of Fonthill and Fenwick between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4.



WAYNE CAMPBELL, Staff Photo

Pelham Cares food co-ordinator Jane Gilmour and Gerry Berkhout, chair of the Pelham Community Food Drive, move boxes into the spacious former Canadian Tire store on Niagara St. in Welland. It will serve as collection and sorting centre for the Dec. 4 Pelham Community Food Drive.

Collection crews spread out from the Lions club halls in Fenwick's Centennial Park and Gord Klager Park on Regional Rd. 20 east of Fonthill.

Food drive coordinator Gerry

Berkhout said he was taking names of volunteers with vans and trucks and lining up routes.

"Call me at 905-892-6988 or email berkley@gococo.ca," he said.

Food donated to the drive pri-

marily goes to Pelham Cares with overflows to the Salvation Army, Hope Centre and Open Arms Mission.

see **FOOD DRIVE** page2

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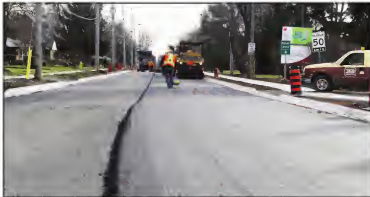
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upfront

■ CONSTRUCTION

New pavement on Haist St.



ALLAN BENNER Staff Photo

A crew from Provincial Construction Ltd. adds the first layer of pavement to Haist St., Monday, after months of work on a \$5-million reconstruction of the Pelham artery between Canboro and Welland roads.



■ FOOD DRIVE

Food bank seeks volunteers

FROM PAGE 1

Pelham Cares will open its Regional Rd. 20 office from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4, to accept any food contribution that don't get picked up by door-to-door crews, said Gilmour.

"We are also take it during our regular hours from 9 a.m. to 12 Monday to Friday," she said.

Pelham Cares needs volunteers to assist at the old Canadian Tire location.

"Call us at call 905-892-5300," she said.

On Saturday, Dec. 4, it will need sorters and packers from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

"Students are especially welcome," she said.

Volunteer sorters and packers will also be needed 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. from Monday, Dec. 6 to Wednesday, Dec. 8.

A big move will come on Thursday, Dec. 9. Volunteers will pickup and carry at both the Pelham Cares office and the old Canadian Tire store.

"Help will be required to move food back to Pelham Cares," said Gilmour.

"We have the use of the Salvation Army truck. We need people to take boxes of food to and from the truck."

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■ CONNECTING PELHAM AND WAINFLEET

O'Reilly's Bridge: Then and now



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

The old one-lane O'Reilly's Bridge, built in 1901, was the fourth bridge linking Pelham and Wainfleet. It was closed by Niagara Region in January 2009, citing safety concerns, and taken down earlier this year to be replaced with a newer, more modern span.



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

A crane moves historic 40-tonne O'Reilly's bridge across the Welland River, to set it on the Wainfleet side of the river in March. It was dismantled over the next few days. A piece of it was used for a monument outlining the history of the O'Reilly's Bridge community and the four bridges that served it dating back into the 1800s.



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff photo

A monument with a plaque outlining the history of O'Reilly's Bridge stands on the Pelham side of the Welland River near a new \$2.8-million bridge that opened in mid-November. It has a piece of the former 1901 steel bridge that was removed in March. The new bridge is the fifth to link Pelham and Wainfleet. The first bridge was built between 1841 and 1847.



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff photo

A new O'Reilly's Bridge spans the Welland River linking Wainfleet and Pelham. The \$2.8 million two-lane bridge replaced a one-lane steel bridge that crossed the river since 1901. Niagara Region closed the older bridge in January 2009 following an inspection that found it unsafe. The new bridge has cycling and walking lanes and decorative sides.



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff photo

A plaque on a monument outlines the history of O'Reilly's Bridge and the five bridges that crossed the Welland River linking Pelham and Wainfleet. The monument is on the Pelham side of the river west of the bridge near E.C. Brown Conservation Area and the Niagara Central Airport.

comment

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Ken Koyama
PUBLISHER, GENERAL MANAGER
Wayne Campbell, owner

perspective



Wayne Campbell
EDITOR

Raise a toast to those in the spirit

When you're roaming around town during the Christmas in Pelham Business Association promotion today and Saturday take a look at decorations on the streets as well as in the shops.

Similarly, when your collecting cans, boxes and packages during the Pelham Community Food Drive on Saturday morning note the labour behind lights and other displays at homes.

And when you're standing along the route of the annual Santa Clause parade in Fenwick next Saturday afternoon, turn an appreciative eye on the efforts made by float designers and tricycle artists.

The joy of the Christmas season is truly visual.

It's expressed in wreaths and reindeer, in lights and lamp posts, in nativity scenes and trees of tinsel, and in snowmen and jolly old souls.

The work behind the efforts to brighten the darkest days of the year deserves a cheer and a toast.

Most are volunteer efforts by people like Paul Ryan who prepares the evergreen boughs that line our highways and byways, stores and offices, there is always those who feel the season early.

They nudge the rest of us to get into the spirit and get out the trees and balls. At home most of us prefer the warmth of the couch. But someone will call out "ho ho." Then up go the ladders. Lights find the hooks. Artificial trees come out of storage or live ones are hunted down on Pelham lots and tree farms.

Boxes of decorations come out of closets. Their contents soon fill hooks of living rooms or festive Victorian villages on buffets. The unsung heroes of Christmas — yes, Virginia, they deserve a carol — are those who take the time and make the effort to ensure a bright Christmas season for all of us.

■ DONATION



Supplied Photo
The Fonthill Kinsmen recently donated \$3,000 to Women's Place of South Niagara. The amount represents part of the proceeds of the First Annual Kinsmen Craft Show. In the photo from left is Kin Near Right, Kin Dave Kuchyt, Jennifer Dickenson representing Women's Place, and Kin President Brian Steven.



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Senate's "kill bill" a blow to democracy

On Nov. 16, Canadian senators killed Bill C-311, the Climate Change Accountability Act, with a surprise vote. The way the vote was carried out is an insult to Canadians and democracy. It's also further evidence that Canada will go to the UN climate change negotiations in Cancun, Mexico, on Nov. 29, with nothing to offer but empty words and an unwillingness to tackle what leading scientists say is the most serious crisis facing Canada and the world.

Even though the bill had been delivered to the Senate 193 days before, after being passed by the House of Commons, the vote was called without notice and without debate, when at least 15 Liberal senators and several independent senators were absent. This law, which would have put our country on track to be an environmental leader, was killed by only 11 votes (43 to 32). Prime Minister Stephen Harper



David Suzuki
THE EARTH

once promised he would never allow the unelected Senate to go against the will of the majority of Members of Parliament and the Canadian public. But with this vote in a Senate stacked by the prime minister, he has done exactly that.

The act would have committed Canada to an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and a 25% reduction by 2020. Many international scientists agree these reductions are the least required to prevent dangerous climate change.

But in a near-unprecedented move that flies in the face of democratic traditions and government accountability, Conservative senators killed this modest piece of legislation.

At nearly 75 years old, I am sickened to see people my age making such a reckless decision that will affect the lives of today's young people and generations to come when many of the senators won't even be around to face the most serious consequences.

When his government was first elected in 2006, Prime Minister Harper told Canadians that "Restoring accountability will be one of the major priorities of our new government. Accountability is what ordinary Canadians, working Canadians, those people who pay their bills, pay their taxes, expect from their political leaders."

It appears that was just empty rhetoric — especially when it comes to climate change. Our government has dismissed its obligation under the Kyoto Protocol, an international climate change agreement that Canada and 186 countries ratified.

see SUZUKI page 5

What's in a chair?

Since a recent topic of discussion around kitchen tables, on radio call-in shows and on the editorial pages has been about the election of the next regional chair, I wanted to provide you with a little context.



Dave Augustyn
MAYORAL VIEW

The members of the newly-elected regional council will convene on Thursday, Dec. 9 at 10 a.m. in the regional clerk chamber. After the regional clerk administers the "declaration of office" for our 30 members, the first order of business will be the election of a chair.

The election of the chair will be a public process; the proceedings will be open to the public and Cogeco Cable will broadcast the live (tape-delayed) proceedings beginning at 11 a.m.

In the first phase of the election, the clerk will ask for nominations for qualified candidates; only regional councillors can "move" and "second" those nominations. Following nominations, each qualified candidate will have a chance to speak for five minutes (in alphabetical order).

Then, the clerk will oversee the "run-off" election vote which will be similar to the process used in political leadership contests. For example, if a first ballot, no one receives a majority of the votes — 16 — then the candidates with the least number will be removed and the vote on another ballot would occur. The voting continues until a candidate receives a majority.

While the Municipal Act does allow the election of any qualified elector from Niagara to be nominated and elected chair, you may be interested to know that the president from the last six elections (since 1991) has been to nominate and elect a chair only from the members of regional council.

What prompted this practice, you might ask?

Well, from 1972 to 1983, council continued to re-elect John Campbell as regional chair. Campbell was first appointed by the province to serve as chair during the start of the Region in 1970.

see AUGUSTYN page 5

■ SUZUKI

We expect our leaders to respect rules of democracy

FROM PAGE 4

Our government has not implemented any substantial policies aimed at curbing greenhouse gas emissions and helping Canada join the emerging clean-energy economy, even though Canada is probably more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than any other industrialized country.

The government claims the cost of reducing emissions will be economically devastating yet continues to heavily subsidize and support the polluting fossil fuel industry, especially in the environmentally destructive tar sands. Canada has even earned itself the shameful reputation for obstructing progress at international negotiations on climate change.

Prime Minister Harper's contention that the bill would have thrown "hundreds of thousands and possibly millions of people out of work" is simply false. In California, voters resisted attempts by out-of-state oil companies in the Nov. 2 election to overturn the state's Global Warming Solutions Act. Since the law was passed in 2006, California has attracted more investments in alternative energy start-up companies than anywhere in the world and has seen a boom in employment in the clean energy sector. Those investments tripled to US\$2.9 billion over the past year alone, according to the *Los Angeles Times*.

According to Reuters news, "The world's low carbon energy market is expected

to treble in a decade, and analysts say major economies including Japan, the United States and China will be jostling for a slice of the market likely to be worth \$2.2 trillion by 2020."

And economists, including former World Bank chief economist Nicholas Stern, have concluded that failing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will have catastrophic economic consequences.

Canadians have seen far more leadership from municipal and provincial governments than from the federal government on

environmental issues related to climate change. Ontario is phasing out coal power and has implemented incentives to attract clean-energy technologies.

Vancouver is moving ahead with its ambitious green plans, and B.C. has implemented a carbon tax that increases over time.

As Canadians, we expect more of our leaders. At the very least, we expect them to remember that we still live in a democracy and that its rules must be respected.

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■ AUGUSTYN

Election of the next regional chair should be interesting

FROM PAGE 4

But, when Campbell retired, regional council elected a member of council — Wilbert Dick — to serve as chair in 1985. Interestingly, in 1988 council re-elected Dick, even though he didn't run for re-election as a councillor.

However, the matter

was clarified in 1990 as council endorsed (and in 1991 re-affirmed) a recommendation in the report of the Niagara Region Review Commission that "Only regional councillors elected at the most recent election should be eligible for election as Regional Chair."

Given the discussion in

the community and the candidates who have already announced, it should be a very interesting election on Dec. 9.

You may contact Mayor Dave Augustyn at mayordave@pelham.ca or read past columns at www.pelhammayordave.blogspot.com.

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■ **TOUR:** More than 50 artists experiences

Artist profiles in Pelham draws praise

MARYANNE FIRTH
PelhamNEWS Staff

PELHAM — Art is in abundance in Pelham.

People got a taste of the talent found within the town this weekend during the fall Artists Studio Tour.

The free self-guided tour, which ran Saturday and Sunday, allowed visitors to experience the work of about 50 local artists at a dozen different sites in both Pelham and Welland.

"Everything's been going really well. There have been sales and the public has been really happy," tour organizer and artist Pat Hafnar said.

She said the tour was an opportunity for people to get to know the artists within the community as well as the types of art they produce. Hafnar added that artists enjoy interacting with the public and gaining feedback on their work, making the tour a win-win for artists and art-enthusi-



The studio of Ridgeville artist Mary Ellen Walker was one of a dozen sites listed as part of the fall Artists Studio Tour held in Welland and Pelham this weekend.

asts alike.

Ridgeville artist Mary Ellen Walker was anxious to share her work with the public. She

said she appreciated that the studio tour allows people to meet artists "in their own environment," making the intro-

duction more personal.

There's very little "feeling" at a large art show where every-one's packed into the

same area, Walker said. Having personal tours of a single artist's working space adds to the atmosphere, she said while standing in her backyard studio.

Walker's art, done mainly in watercolour and pencil, focuses a lot on nature and wildlife, making the rustic studio an ideal place to showcase her work.

With many people taking the tour, Hafnar said she was pleased to see a lot of parents bringing their children and introducing them to the world of art.

"It provides an alternative for some children. Not every child is into sports," she said, adding that studio tours can be an excellent way to help youth experience different art forms.

Many people on the tour were also keeping an eye out for that perfect Christmas gift. The event's November date -- and the chilly weather on the weekend -- was a reminder that the holidays are coming

and an original piece of art might be the perfect way to check that hard-to-buy-for person off your shopping list, she said.

Hafnar said the artists are all "very appreciative" of the community coming out and showing its support.

Artists who had their studios on the tour included Dale Ford, Zdenek Horak, Pat Hafnar, who displayed work alongside Darlene Monroe and Joyce Berry, Divine Mucciane, who displayed work alongside Paul Charette, Mary Ellen Walker, Toye Chanpen Hayes, Kim Moldred, Maria Corzi, Beverly Sneath, who displayed pieces alongside Lenka Kamenicky.

Cafe on Main in Fonthill featured artist Anne-Audet Giroux, while Keith's Restaurant displayed the work of Mary Powley. Pelham Public Library showcased work from the Pelham Art Association's juried show.

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■ GIFTS: 'It's a good way to raise awareness in your family'

Fair Trade items reach across nations

MARYANNE FIRTH
PelhamNEWS Staff

WELLAND — It's the gift that gives twice.

Buying fair-trade items allows shoppers to provide their loved ones with unique gifts for the holidays, all while helping someone in a developing nation.

Getting a head start on their Christmas shopping, staff and students at Notre Dame College School spent a day last week perusing a variety of unique fair-trade items offered by Ten Thousand Villages of Port Colborne.

The daylong display was one of several activities held throughout the school's fair trade week, running from

Nov. 22 to Nov. 26.

By bringing the store to the school, members of Notre Dame's fair trade club hoped to keep the cause on the minds of their peers during the holiday season.

The hope is to encourage people to make "conscious decisions" when shopping, paying attention to the products being purchased and where they're from, said teacher Carol Berkhout.

Often associating fair trade with coffee and chocolate, people don't often realize the wide array of items that can be purchased in support of the cause, she said.

Having Ten Thousand Villages set up shop in the school not only showcases

the variety of products, it makes fair-trade shopping even easier for students who may not have the means to get out to the Port Colborne store.

"We're the ones who will decide how everything is run in the future. ... If we get the majority listening to the message of fair trade, it will become the status quo," said club member Delighon Edwards.

Keeping fair trade in mind over the holidays allows shoppers to "give back to the people who are constantly working, to give back to others in a positive way," she said.

Fair-trade gifts also pass on the message of the cause

to their recipients, said Liz Russell.

"It's a good way to raise awareness in your family," said the Grade 10 student.

Tracy Tarran, assistant manager at Ten Thousand Villages, wants students to understand they're making a choice each time they make a purchase.

By choosing to support fair trade, they're ensuring artisans and farmers in 35 countries around the world are being paid fairly for their work, she said.

"It's about the person behind the product. It's about their story."



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Notre Dame College School fair trade club members Liz Russell and Melissa Della Smirna set up items in the school's front foyer from Ten Thousand Villages in Port Colborne. As part of fair trade week at the school, students were encouraged to pick up items for their Christmas shopping list.

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- 2-4pm - Pianist Frank Krahn performing at Shoppers
- 2-4pm - Solstice performing at the Log Cabin
- 2-4pm - Holy Trinity Anglican Church choir caroling through Fonthill
- 6-8pm - Rachel & Andrew performing at the Urban
- 7:30pm - Treblaires performing at Holy Trinity Anglican Church

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Day 4 Barry Burns	Day 10 Tony Bayes
Day 5 Susan Bayes	Day 11 Patsi Harding
Day 6 Dale Warriner	Day 12 Helen Leppert

■ **FITNESS:** Personal training offered

New Fonthill centre is gym with a view



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Mike Browne stands amid the gym equipment at Fonthill Fitness. The new gym he has opened above Mossimo's on Pelham St. in Fonthill. There is a nice view of the Niagara Falls skyline from the treadmills.

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

For Mike Browne, it was a long search.

When the former operator of a Toronto gym moved to Pelham, he had a dream to open another one.

However, he couldn't find the right space. It took years. Now he has it.

"People in Pelham want things in their backyard," he said.

"You can't get more in your backyard than right above Mossimo's," said the owner of Fonthill Fitness about his downtown Fonthill location at 1440 Pelham St. with a view of the Niagara Falls skyline from the treadmills.

The centre has about 4,000 square feet with a 3,700 square foot gym, and a spinning studio for cycling and a group fitness and yoga studio.

The Life Fitness brand computerized equipment include

treadmills, cross trainers, steppers, bikes and strength circuit training equipment.

"Life Fitness is very user friendly, easy to navigate, gives you all kinds of programs," said Browne reflecting on the evolution of fitness equipment.

"They're simply a lot of fun. The old days of the stationary bike are gone."

Browne, who opened Fonthill Fitness last week, expects his market to be about 65% women with a mix of seniors and younger people. His staff of five trainers are all women.

They provide instruction for classes in yoga, spinning and group sessions as well as personal training.

"Personal training has really taken off," he said. They train you to do it right, keep you on course, and get the most out of the program."

Weight training, Brown said, is an important part of fitness and something

women shy away from it.

"All my staff walk the walk and know their stuff," he said.

Fitness also includes good nutrition, good sleeping habits and stress management.

"I have employed qualified and experienced personnel who are dedicated in their field, have a passion for fitness, and live it each day," he said.

"With their knowledge and expertise they can motivate, educate and lend the support you require to meet your goals."

To learn more about Fonthill Fitness see its website www.fonthillfitness.com or call 905-892-4443.

"I feel confident we have put together a gym that Fonthill will embrace," Browne said.

"Fonthill Fitness is more than just a place to work out, but also a place for you to meet your neighbour, reach your fitness goals and receive guidance along the way."

Parking Lot Access

Based on a request from the Town of Pelham, and Mr. Accursi, Pelham Printing has opened up the parking lot behind their business, allowing downtown shoppers the ability to gain access to the stores without having to endure the delays, bumps and dust currently being encountered during downtown Fonthill's beautification process.

"We hope this will encourage shoppers to continue visiting the excellent assortment of merchants during the Holiday shopping season," says Pelham Printing owner Dave Metler. "We want to believe the sayings 'short term pain, long term gain' holds true. The downtown will be a destination all of Pelham will be proud of when completed."

Pelham Printing has been in business since 1973, having first started out on Pelham Street, before moving to its present location on Hwy 20 in 1982. They have evolved the business over this time to keep pace with the ever-changing print industry. "Today's customers are more focused on short run digital printing rather than the traditional high volume runs on the offset press for larger volume run for the simple reason it is more cost effective that using the copier," stated Metler.

"Just this year we put in a full colour digital press that can handle small to medium run lengths of black and white or full colour jobs. We can produce books, brochures, flyers, post cards, letterhead, tickets, business cards, letterhead, tickets, business cards, cheques, calendars, carbonless forms, statements, tags, programs, menus, envelopes, invoices, labels, invitations and so much more. With the new digital presses we can deliver most jobs very quickly, and at very competitive prices, many times less expensive than the big box stores," he continued. If by chance you are driving or walking through the new "drive through" access, stop by and see for yourself what the friendly staff at Pelham Printing has to offer. They treat all jobs, big or small, with the same courtesy today's customers expect.



DID YOU KNOW? **Shop Pelham!**

DID YOU KNOW...?

Pelham Printing opened their access road to the parking lots behind the businesses on the West side of South Pelham?

mypeham.com

p a Business Association **YouTube** **f**

Pelham Think Local is a Project of the Pelham Business Association. Our members work together to support and inspire a thriving sustainable Pelham community.

BUSINESSES OF THE MONTH: Welland-Pelham Chamber of Commerce



Best Western Rose City Suites is the Welland-Pelham Chamber of Commerce business of the month for November, left. Pictured from left are chamber executive director Dolores Fabiano; Andrew Walker, chair of the chamber's communications committee; Mel Groom representing award sponsor RBC Dominion Securities and Rose City Suites general manager Anne Guillemette. At right, Cafe on Main in Fortnith has been honoured as business of the month for December by Welland-Pelham Chamber of Commerce. Pictured from left are chamber executive director Dolores Fabiano; Andrew Walker, chair of the chamber's communications committee; cafe owners Patti and Paul Fagan; and Mel Groom, representing award sponsor RBC Dominion Securities.



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Are You Investments Properly Diversified?



Larry J. Gallant
FINANCIAL VIEW
ADVERTORIAL

Diversify. You've heard the word before. It's one of those "buzz" words that are planted into each investor's head by television commercials, newspapers and radio ads. And there's a good reason why Financial Advisors preach it to their clients over and over again. But what does it really mean?

When we talk about your investments, diversification can mean many things. The most obvious meaning refers to having a number of different investments. By ensuring your portfolio contains a healthy mix of investment types, you decrease portfolio volatility and increase your growth potential.

A portfolio that diversifies assets between cash-equivalent investments, fixed income investments and equity investments can better take advantage of a wide range of investment opportunities. The more opportunities, the more potential for growth. A portfolio that holds only one type of asset, one mutual fund or one stock has less protection because a downturn in that single investment can have a serious negative impact on the value of the portfolio.

There are many ways to diversify your investments. If you hold several guaranteed investment certificates or corporate bonds within your portfolio, you need to ensure that the maturity dates of these investments are added, or staggered, so that the investments don't all mature in the same year.

If your portfolio holds mutual funds, are they invested primarily in Canadian corporations or are they diversified in several countries around the world? If they are only invested in Canadian corporations, you miss out on about 87% of the world's investment opportunities. Do your mutual funds pay dividends that are automatically re-invested? How many growth mutual funds do you hold?

If you hold mutual funds, are they all managed by a single company, whether that be a bank or specific mutual fund company? There are over 250 fund families available in Canada. Thus there are thousands of funds available for investing. Is it questionable that your bank or investment firm believes that their own particular brand of mutual funds is best suited for you? Perhaps.

"Your financial well-being is far too important to be based on a leap of faith if you are not being kept informed by your Financial Advisor."

Does your portfolio hold stocks? If you only invest in mutual funds, adding individual high quality stocks can enhance the overall performance of your portfolio. Portfolios, including RRSP's, can benefit by adding quality dividend paying stocks as well as growth stocks traded in Canada and the United States.

If you've read this advertisement and are left scratching your head because you don't know the answers to the questions raised, you need to act. Your financial well-being is far too important to be based on a leap of faith if you are not being kept informed by your Financial Advisor.

To discuss this article or to arrange a free, no obligation review of your portfolio, please contact me at larry.gallant@queensbury.com or by calling 905-892-2100. I'll give you an unbiased assessment of your investments, the good and the bad. To subscribe to my monthly newsletter or read past articles, visit my website at www.larrygallantfinancial.ca.

Larry J. Gallant is an independent Financial Advisor with Queensbury Securities Inc., a member of the Canadian Investment Protection Fund and the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada.

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■ **CONCERT:** Voice teacher reaches into operatic training

Benefit recital puts passion into the season

PelhamNews Staff

Vicky Vlassis-Radulovich, a classically trained Fonthill voice teacher, is bringing passion to a benefit concert at Fonthill United Church.

The Friday, Dec. 3, recital will take advantage of the church's "wonderful acoustics," said Vlassis-Radulovich.

She will perform a lively combination of classical, operatic, Tango and Latin-American favorites.

She will include Christmas selections during the evening.

"Since it is chilly this time of year, I decided to select passionate and fiery music to heat things up," she said about the bounce, energy and pas-

sion she wants to put into the evening.

Proceeds from the \$30 ticket will support MSF/Doctors Without Borders, a campaign to increase the nutritional quality of food aid to starving children. Some of the proceeds will also go to local charities. Doors open at 7 p.m. with concert beginning at 7:30 p.m.

"I am very lucky to have the support of the Fonthill United Church," Vlassis-Radulovich said.

It was Rev. Garry van Bruchem's idea to support the MSF Starved for Attention program, she said. Staved for Attention draws the world's attention to the 195 million children around the world

receive sub standard food aid which does not meet the nutritional needs of young children.

At the concert, the audience can sign a petition that calls on the wealthy nations including Canada to give aid which meets the basic nutritional needs of young children. For more information see www.starvedforattention.org.

Backing her up on piano and accordion during the Friday evening event will be Mary-Lou Vetere.

"It's amazing what she can make out of an accident," said Vlassis-Radulovich.

Vetere has Ph.D in historical musicology from the University of Buffalo and is an international professional accompanist and recitalist.

Vlassis-Radulovich said she is now touring the Friday evening with Metropolitan Opera star Aprile Millo and recently performed at The Lincoln Centre.

Vlassis-Radulovich herself has a Bachelor of Music in voice and a Master of Music in performance from The University of Western Ontario.

She completed post-graduate diplomas in operatic performance at University of Vienna and the University of Augsburg in Germany with soprano Dr. Edith Wiens. She also has a Bachelor of Education from Brock University.

Vlassis-Radulovich credits Vetere with steering her away from a business degree to music.

But she said her business training came in handy when she started VVR Voice Studios. She teaches in Fonthill, Beamsville and Niagara Falls and recently moved her voice studio to the church.

Two of her oldest voice students, Peter Jackson, 87, and Douglas Johnson, 75, will perform a number with her at the concert.

While most of her students are children and teenagers, she said, more older people want a trained approach to singing.

A complimentary reception for the guests will follow the event.

"Two guarantees it will be a great time. The music selections are energizing, beautiful and of course passionate!"

Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance by calling 905-892-6433. Fonthill United Church is at 42 Church Hill. For more information on the concert and VVR Voice Studios visit www.rickylvassias.com.

Major concert sponsors are Peninsula Press, Hillbrand Estates, Chez Fromage, Rotary Club of Welland and Homestead Houses Niagara for helping make this concert a success.

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DOORS OPEN AT 7:30PM

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Welland Hospital Foundation president Roman Groch presents tickets for the 14th annual Tim Hortons Elimination Draw to franchise owners John Craig Jr. (Welland) and Stephanie and Bill McWilliams (Fonthill). The draw takes place on Wednesday, Jan. 26 at the Croatian National Home in Welland. Tickets are \$65 and can be purchased by calling the foundation at 905-378-4647, ext. 30000.

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■ **CANCER:** Daffodils planted

Pathway to a cure

For PelhamNEWS

A group of local students took the first steps on Pelham's Pathway to a Cure, a cancer event scheduled for the spring of 2011.

Stephen Hughes and Hayden Paterson, who spearheaded the fundraising event on by planting 300 daffodil bulbs in the flower bed at Peace Park in Pelham, went next to the town's bandshell. Those bulbs should be blooming when the walk takes place, and will provide a fitting start and finish line for the event.

"The business community in Pelham really supported us," said Hughes who, along with Paterson, canvassed local businesses over the past three weeks. The money collected purchased the bulbs planted by a small group of volunteers. The businesses that sponsored have their names listed on a sign in the flower bed. A temporary version of the sign was put into the iron frame. The final sign will be put in place.

Angela Daley, fundraising coordinator with the Canadian Cancer Society, said the name of the spring event reminds her of one of her favourite movies.



"It's like the yellow brick road," she said, recalling the 1939 classic *The Wizard of Oz*. "We're on the road to a cure and we're gathering friends along the way. If we work as a team, the cure is in ourselves."

Hughes and Paterson also received donations in kind, including the ornamental iron frame that will hold the sponsor's sign. That was built and donated by Ken Robertson of Ornamental Iron Works of Biddeford.

"This is a big hurdle to get past," said Paterson. "Now the real work begins to be ready for the spring."

It includes a logo design contest at Pelham elementary schools. The winning logo will appear on all event material, including the T-shirts.

Hughes and Paterson said they'll be visiting schools in

Fonthill and Fenwick to officially announce the contest early in December.

The E.L. Crossley students first approached the Town of Pelham and the Canadian Cancer Society in October about the idea. The Town granted them permission to use the Peace Park garden.

Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn said supporting the plan was an easy decision.

"When Stephen and Hayden approached me with their idea for a cancer run / walk in downtown Fonthill next spring, I was so impressed with their energy, creativity, and drive," he said. "That they have already started raising funds and planted daffodils in Peace Park speaks to their forward thinking and their dedication. I look forward to the event and encourage all to become involved."

Supplied Photo
A group of volunteers planted 300 daffodil bulbs to kick off Pelham's Pathway to the Cure cancer fundraiser. Front row from left John Dooler and Nolan Paterson. Back row from left, Jordan Fraser, Stephen Hughes, Angela Daley, Hayden Paterson, Mayor Dave Augustyn, Mike Hughes and Mary Hughes.

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Cough and Cold

Cough and Cold season is here again. There are many questions about which medication is the best to treat cold symptoms. Unfortunately we have no cure for a stuffy head, runny nose, cough, and sore throat, but there are ways to treat these symptoms.

For children under six, it is best not to use traditional cold medications. They don't work well, and often cause many unwanted side effects than benefit. Tylenol or Advil should be used with caution and help with discomfort. Administer plenty of fluids to help loosen congestion. Saline nasal sprays and drops can be used to loosen mucus as well as gentle suctioning. A vaporizer in the child's room can make breathing easier, but remember to change the water daily to avoid the growth of molds and bacteria. Turn down the heat in the house. Warm dry air can be more difficult to breathe and cause irritation. Opening a window in the child's room is also helpful. A teaspoon of honey can help settle a cough at night time, but don't give to children less than one year of age if they don't have the proper gut flora to protect against possible botulism. Topical rubs such as Vicks vaporub contain menthol, camphor and eucalyptus. They can provide a feeling of being able to breathe easier, but they should be applied sparingly and under a shirt to avoid contact with eyes and mouth. Camphor should not be used in children under two as there are concerns about absorption and liver damage.

For adults there are many products to choose from. Again, side effects caused by the medication can be worse than the cold. All of the non-medical suggestions used for kids can also be effective for adults. Decongestants like pseudoephedrine, are generally not recommended for patients with high blood pressure. There is a product called Coricidin that does help with congestion and is safe for people with high blood pressure.

For cough due to cold, a product with an antihistamine-decongestant combo works quite well. Find one with a first generation antihistamine in it like brompheniramine, an example would be Dimetane cold and sinus. Naproxen (now available in Canada without a prescription) can also help with a cough due to its anti-inflammatory properties. Cough syrups with dextromethorphan may help with a cough and are generally safe for everyone to take. Some syrups have an expectorant in them called guaifenesin, which is useful to help loosen mucus. In general it does not make much sense to buy a product with both of these ingredients in it. If you want to get rid of mucus in your chest, you don't want an ingredient to suppress your cough. Narcotic cough medications work the best to settle a cough but require a prescription from your doctor.

Make sure you understand what all of the ingredients are in your cold medication. Often they will contain Tylenol (acetaminophen) or Advil (Ibuprofen). You don't want to take them more than the recommended doses of those medications. However, you do want to take some Tylenol or Advil, they are both effective at treating fever and a sore throat.

A cold is much different than the flu. The flu presents with fatigue, body aches, fever and sometimes a cough. A cold is associated with runny nose, sore throat, and cough. Although a cold makes us uncomfortable, generally the symptoms are manageable. The best thing to do is use a mixture of old-fashioned remedies, cough and cold products, and rest as much as possible.

The flu (especially this year) can be life threatening. It is not treatable with over the counter medications. If you suspect you may have the flu, you should see a physician.

As always the best treatment is prevention. Remember to wash your hands thoroughly and stay home if you are sick.

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■ QUICK LOOK: 2011 Acura TSX Sport Wagon

Wagons Ho! for Acura sport sedan

JOE DUARTE
QMI Agency

The debate about why North America gets a less exciting Honda Accord in light of the better looking and performing version they get in Europe is kind of moot, because we get an Acura TSX that is, for all intents and purposes, the Accord the rest of the world gets.

The one piece that has been missing for some time is now poised to enter the marketplace – the TSX Sport Wagon.

Europeans love their wagons because the bodystyle combines four door practicalities with the utility that comes with a full-length roof. You get more of the same, if you will, so you still have the 2,676 litres (94.5 cubic feet) of passenger space, but you more than double up on the cargo space (from a 14 cu. ft. trunk to 31.5 cu. ft.). It's marginally longer and taller, but otherwise identical in every interior and exterior measurement.

Like the four-door ZDX sport utility "coupe", the

TSX wagon's cargo area has removable side panels so that items such as golf bags can fit in sideways. Compartmentalized storage is also available under the floor back there.

Up front, the TSX benefits from Acura's ubiquitous Technology Package that adds such things as a navigation system with real time traffic updates, voice control over mobile communications and navigation, and a surround sound system with hard drive media storage and USB and AUX ports.

The TSX wagon comes powered only by the 2.4-litre four cylinder engine. It puts out 201 hp and 170 lb.-ft. of torque, which is reportedly sufficient to get the 1,633 kg (3,600 lbs.) car moving (manual transmission sedans weigh 200 lbs. less). Shifting the front wheel drive wagon is handled by a five speed automatic with sequential shift mode available through steering wheel mounted paddles (the optional transmission on the four-cylinder sedan, which comes basic with a six speed manual).



WEEK
There are no options expected in the front-wheel drive Acura TSX Sport Wagon, though many competitors use all-wheel drive.

As expected in this segment, antilock brakes, traction control and stability control are all standard. In fact, there are no options expected in the TSX Wagon when it goes on sale. Of note is that

many of the TSX's wagon competitors use all-wheel drive.

Pricing has yet to be announced for the TSX Sport Wagon, which is expected to be an all inclusive package priced similar to the sedan version.

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Q. What is a soft liner?

The permanent soft liner is a layer of soft material that is fitted to the surface of your denture and rests next to the oral tissues. The soft liner acts as a cushion or shock absorber between the hard plastic of the denture and the gum area. The soft base will not halt the resorption of your gum, whose shape and thickness are constantly changing, and the reason for your denture getting looser, but it will ensure that your denture provides continued comfort as time goes by.

Q. What are the advantages of a soft liner?

To name just a few reasons • Great comfort • With soft liners, many denture wearers report that they can chew food more comfortably and effectively.

• This will extend the health of your gum as well as ensure maximum adherence.

Q. Is a soft liner right for me?

Permanent soft liner provide comfort and relief for individuals with:

• Severely resorbed or flat gums that do not tolerate the stress of dentures • Chronic sores

Things to think about with soft liners...

Soft liners requires regular follow-up visits with a Denturist to examine the fit of dentures, the health of your oral tissue, and to ensure proper oral hygiene and cleaning of the soft tissue lining.

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sports

■ **BASKETBALL:** Warmup for tournament

Giant Tiger U10 Girls strong against Warriors

For PelhamNEWS

The Giant Tiger U10 Pelham Panther girls were back in action again this Sunday against the Welland Warriors.

The Panthers played tough determined basketball in the loss, getting loose balls and bringing down many

rebounds over the much taller Welland team. Pelham did not let their opponents size intimidate them.

Ally Sentance and Kaley Demont were impressive with their ball handling skills. Both girls caught their defenders flat footed with their nifty crossover dribble. They also made sure they helped out

on defense if a teammate was beat.

Jordyn Britton did a wonderful job in creating turnovers and eating up those rebounds. She created a couple of breakaways for herself by clogging up the passing lanes.

Elizabeth Scozzafava was great in getting those

loose balls and rebounding. Elizabeth created many jump balls with her determination and grit.

Sydney Grummett played amazing defense. Sydney kept Welland's best player to the outside most of the afternoon. Tess Pachabski hustled on both ends of the floor,

making sure she was always the first one back on defence.

The girls missed co-coach Sue Sentance this week.

The Panther girls are really starting to come together as a team. They are supporting each other much more on defense and distributing the ball more on offence.

With continued hard work and team first attitude they should be ready for their first tournament in December.

Special thanks to our sponsors: Fonthill Giant Tiger, MHC Mortgage Service Inc. and The Fenwick Firefighters Association.



Fonthill Giant Tiger U10 basketball girls relax before game time with team photo.

Supplied photo

■ **HOCKEY:** Wins over West Lincoln and Wainfleet

Atom Gators show scoring skill

For PelhamNEWS

The Pelham Auto SuperStore Atom Gators showed their ability to find the back of the net in a couple of high-scoring games this week.

First they welcomed West Lincoln No. 2 to the swamp. Rowan McLellan started things off for the Gators with the help of Tucker Inglis and Reid Murray. Nicholas Chambers added another from Robbie Harper & Jeremy

Pollard, but the Gators found themselves down by one at the end of the first period.

Goals by Inglis, from Pollard and Tristan Barnhart, and Pollard, from McLellan and Dean Coates, tied the score in the second.

The Gators kept the score-keeper busy in the third. Jeremy Pollard first beat the West Lincoln netminder with the assistance of Ryan Moffat. McLellan and Inglis scored their second goals of the game both with the help

of Murray and Moffat. Reid Murray added another goal from Kayla Igerter and Inglis and Jeremy Pollard finished the game up with a hat trick goal from Nicholas Ylolaass and McLellan. Goalie Tristan Barnhart took the 9-6 victory.

The Gators went on the road to play a rare mid-week game against Wainfleet No. 2. At the end of the second period, the Gators had scored eight unanswered goals.

see **HOCKEY** page 23

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■ HOCKEY

FROM PAGE 22

A pair of goals were scored by Nicholas Chambers (from Ryan Moffat and Reid Murray, and one unassisted), Reid Murray from Chambers and Kayla Egert, and from Chambers & Noah Wouthuis, and

Dan Durkin from Rowan McEllan and Tucker Inglis, and from Dean Coates, while McEllan from Robbie Harper and Taylor Montgomery from Inglis racked up singles.

The third period saw a couple of goals for both teams.

Kayla Egert found the sweet spot for the Gators with the help of Murray and Nicholas Yioldassias, and Tucker Inglis added a final point from Durkin and McEllan.

A 10-2 victory for goalie, Tristan Barnhart and the Gators.

■ SWEEPSTAKES: Choice of cars

Pelham resident wins Princess Margaret draw

PELHAM — Fonthill resident Melissa Hercanuck is a lucky winner with a choice. After her ticket was drawn for the Princess Margaret

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AROUND TOWN

FRIDAY, DEC. 3

WASSAL PARTY presented by Fernwick United Church, 1050 Church Street at 7:30 p.m., featuring "Sweet Harmony", readings and songs. We invite you for a beautiful evening of song and food to start the Advent Season. Tickets: Adults \$10 children under 12 free - available at the door.

SHOES A-Z Fashion Haven and Kicksologist Jonathan Walford returns with a brand new release. Walford is the co-founder and Artistic Director of Kicksah Productions and was the founding curator of the Bata Shoe Museum, Kicksah Productions promotes the history of fashion by creating fashion exhibitions, using its collection of over 8,000 historic garments and accessories. This collection, which includes costumes from the major couture houses of Paris to humble frocks from local order catalogues is the basis for the Fashion History Museum which Jonathan and Jonathan Walford are founding. Sale and Signing, Dec. 3, at 2 p.m. \$7

at the FortHill Branch of the Pelham Public Library.

BENEFIT CONCERT by Vicki Vassili-Radiouich of classical and operatic music at FortHill United Church. Tickets \$30 can be purchased at the door or in advance by calling 905-663-6433. FortHill United Church is at 42 Church Hill. Proceeds will support MSF/Doctors Without Borders and local charities. Doors open at 7 p.m. with concert beginning at 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 4

PELHAM FOD DRIVE for Pelham Cars, Open Arms Salvation Army and Hope Centre begins 9 a.m. from Fernwick Lions Club hall in Centennial Park and Regional Rd. 10. Drive northbound through trucks, vans and cars. To volunteer contact Gerry Berkhout at 905-952-6988 or email berkley@cegc.ca.

ANNUAL BAKE SALE AND CHRISTMAS BASKET RAFFLE by St. Alexander Catholic

Women's League. 50 Pelham Town Square. Saturday from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Sunday from 6:45 a.m.-1 p.m. Come enjoy a coffee and muffins!

PELHAM TOWN COUNCIL inaugural meeting from Wednesday Dec. 1 will be shown on TV Channel 10 in the Pelham area at 5:30 p.m. For information see www.tvcoegco.com/niagara.

SUNDAY, DEC. 5

ANNUAL BAKE SALE AND CHRISTMAS BASKET RAFFLE by 50 Pelham Town Square. Sunday from 8:45 a.m.-1 p.m. Come enjoy a coffee and muffins!

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 8

WELLAND CAMERA CLUB is celebrating the season with a pot luck dinner, members meeting and show, capped by Santa's Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. at Wesley United Church, 244 First Ave. N. To sign up or for info-Laure 905 735-8451.

SATURDAY, DEC. 11

SANTA CLAUS PARADE starts at 13th annual walk through Festival at 1 p.m. It begins at Bethany Christian Reform Church (1086 Balfour St., Fernwick) heading North on Balfour Street to Canboro Road, West on Canboro Road to Church Street, North on Church Street to Centennial Park (999 Church St., Fernwick).

ONGOING

TUESDAY NIGHT BINGO St. Ann's Parish, 834 Canboro Rd., Fernwick 7 p.m. Continues every Tuesday to the end of June. Wheelchair accessible. Chance to win \$100. 905-952-6123.

CHURCH NIAGARA - THE POWER OF 100. Artistic Director Robert Coogee invites singers to audition for Niagara's premier 100 voice community choir. Call 905-653-1616 for an audition appointment.

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Further information www.chorusniagara.ca

A CAPPELLA NIAGARA Men's Barbershop Chorus invites singers for fun, fellowship and fabulous four-part harmony every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at St. John Ambulance, 534 Glenhead Circle, at High St. in Niagara Falls. For info call Bob, 852-2336.

ST. CATHARINES NEWSOMERS CLUB invites women of all ages new to the Niagara area to join us on the first Wednesday of the month, at the Hedges of, 600 Lake St. St. Catharines at 7:30 p.m. Call Pat at 905-937-9889 or Gwen 905-641-9832

AUDITIONS - Chorus Niagara Chorus's Choir is a growing choir group for children aged 7 to 17. Under the leadership of Melanie Martin they are rapidly becoming known in the region for their excellence in choral singing. If you would like more information or would like to book an audition please contact the choir manager Lyn Hibbitt at 905-945-2049 or cncmnaur@yahoo.ca

Open House is a coming attraction for non-profit groups in Pelham. Please make submissions by e-mail to pelhamnews@wellandexpress.com or by fax to 905-732-3660.

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PUPO'S

Corner of Maple Ave. and Prince Charles Drive

SPECIALS in effect Fri. December 3rd to closing Thurs. December 9th, 2010 • OPEN SAT. 8-6, SUN. 10-5, MON.-TUES.-WED. 9-6, THURS.-FRI. 9-9

FRESH AIR CHILLED BONELESS SKINLESS CHICKEN BREASTS

1/2 PRICE

3.99 lb.

FRESH LEAN GROUND PORK

1/2 PRICE

1.99 lb.

PUPO'S HOT OR MILD ITALIAN SAUSAGE

1/2 PRICE

3.99 lb.

CUT FROM ONTARIO AA AND AAA NORWICH PACKERS CORN FED BEEF BONELESS NEW YORK STRIP STEAKS

1/2 PRICE

5.99 lb.

PUPO'S PORK & BEEF GROUND COMBINATION

SAVE \$2.00

1.99 lb.

DELI Specials

3.99 lb.

4.99 lb.

FRESH PORK TENDERLOIN

1/2 PRICE

3.99 lb.

FRESH ONTARIO PORK CENTRE CUT LOIN PORK CHOPS

SAVE \$4.50

2.99 lb.

WONDER PLUS BREAD

White or 100% Whole Wheat

675 g loaf

1.69

GREEN GIANT frozen PEAS, CORN MIXED VEGETABLES

750g bag

2/\$4

ROMAN LASAGNA

5 lb. tray

7.99

DELMONTE PEAS, CREAM CORN, SEASONED GREEN or WAX BEANS

14 oz. can

\$1

ROBIN HOOD FLOUR

10 kg bag

9.99

OCEAN JEWEL LARGE SHRIMP

31-40 size

690 g bag

9.99

BREYER'S COOKIE JAR ICE CREAM

1.66 Litre Container

3.99

CLOVERLEAF FLAKED LIGHT TUNA

170g can

\$1

CHRISTIE'S RITZ, TRISCUIT or VEGETABLE THIN

100-200g bag

2/\$4

VEGETABLE COCKTAIL

V-8

2.99

OCEAN JEWEL HADDOCK FILLETS

400g pkg

3.99

Locally Grown Beautiful Poinsettias 6" Pot 4.99

NO. 1 GRADE CALIFORNIA RED SEEDLESS GRAPES

1.99 lb.

No. 1 Grade California ICEBERG or LEAF LETTUCE

1.29 EA.

NO. 1 GRADE ONTARIO GREENHOUSE TOMATOES

1.49 lb.

NO. 1 GRADE ARGENTINA BLUEBERRIES

1.99 1/2 PINT

FROM THE TROPICS GOLD PINEAPPLE

3.99 EA.

NO. 1 GRADE FLORIDA GREEN PEPPERS

99¢ lb.

NO. 1 GRADE ONTARIO SWEET POTATOES

89¢ lb.

■ BUSINESS: Program for assistive devices

Ministry owes Niagara Mobility \$250,000

ALLAN BENNER
PelhamNEWS Staff

PELHAM — There's still a long way to go, but Helen Teagle finally feels as though she's making progress.

The owner of Niagara Mobility visited Queen's Park in the hope of securing some of the \$250,000 in back payments from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's assistive devices program.

The program helps people with disabilities buy mobility equipment such as wheelchairs by providing up to 75% of the cost.

For people already receiving Ontario Disability Support Program payments, the assistive devices program pays the full cost of the equipment.

Teagle's business, with locations in Pelham and Niagara Falls, has been providing qualifying customers with the equipment they need, relying on the assistive devices pro-

gram to provide most of the money for that equipment.

It usually takes about eight weeks before her business is reimbursed for the equipment, but lately it's been taking more than twice that time.

Niagara Mobility is one of several companies that have been impacted by the backlog of payments from the ministry.

So far, she said her business has received one-fifth of the money the government owes.

"At least we have a commitment from the minister of health (Debra Matthews) that they do intend to resolve the backlog by January."

Teagle attributes the progress they're making to the work of Welland MPP Peter Kormos, who has advocated for the industry and their clients.

But she fears there's still work to do before the program is operating as effectively as it should be.

"I don't think it's over yet, but I think we're heading down the right path," she said.

■ RELIGION: Dec. 8 candlelight event

Service of Hope

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

If you have lost a family member or a close friend in the past year, the Christmas season is a very emotional time.

An annual Service of Hope, especially designed for those dealing with loss, has become a popular local tradition.

The candlelight service, sponsored by the Pelham Clergy Fellowship along with James L. Pedlar and Lampman funeral homes, will be held at Pelham Community Church at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 8.

"While it's been called a bereavement service, it's more than that," said Rev. Dr. Diane Walker of Pelham Community Church.

"It's a time to find comfort with those sharing a similar experience."

She recalled how it helped her when she approached Christmas after the loss of her mother.

"It was a hopeful experience," she said.

The two funeral homes in Fenwick and Fonthill have sent

out invitations to the families of those they served in the past year.

However, Walker said anyone who wishes to attend are welcome.

In the 10 years she has been in Pelham, she said she's met more people attending has varied from 40 up to 200.

Rev. Calvin Lewis of Kirk on the Hill Presbyterian Church will give the message of the service.

Following it, refreshments will be served at Pelham Funeral Home.

Walker said local ministers are very good about attending to offer their help.

Participating clergy include Lewis, Rev. Dr. Diane Walker of Pelham Community Church, Rev. Pearl Vasarhelyi of North Pelham and Rockway Presbyterian Churches, Rev. Russ Myers of Fonthill Baptist Church, Ministry Intern Lynne Wilson of Pelham Community Church, Rev. Dr. Gary Van Bruchem of Fonthill United Church, Rev. George Schmidt of Pelham Community Church, Rev. Alan McLean of Fenwick United Church, and Walker.